

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 and 24-32 are pending in the Application. Claims 1 and 24 are objected to. Claims 1-13 and 24-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicants address these objections and rejections further below.

Applicants note that claims 1, 9, 11, 24 and 30 were amended, as indicated above, to correct typographical mistakes and were not amended to overcome prior art. Hence, no prosecution history estoppel arises from the amendments to claims 1, 9, 11, 24 and 30. *Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co.*, 62 U.S.P.Q.2d 1705, 1711-12 (2002); 56 U.S.P.Q.2d 1865, 1870 (Fed. Cir. 2000). Further, the amendments made to claims 1, 9, 11, 24 and 30 were not made for a substantial reason related to patentability and therefore no prosecution history estoppel arises from such amendments. *See Festo Corp.*, 62 U.S.P.Q.2d 1705 at 1707 (2002); *Warner-Jenkinson Co. v. Hilton Davis Chemical Co.*, 41 U.S.P.Q.2d 1865, 1873 (1997).

I. CLAIM OBJECTIONS:

The Examiner has objected to claim 1 because the use of the term “M processing units” in line 14 of claim 1 is inconsistent with the use of the term “M PUs” as used in lines 4, 5, 9, 15 and 19-21 of claim 1. Office Action (10/30/2006), page 2. Applicants amended claim 1 to replace the term “M processing units” in line 14 of claim 1 with the term “M PUs.”

The Examiner has further objected to claim 24 because the use of the term “M processing units” in line 17 of claim 24 is inconsistent with the use of the term “M PUs” as used in lines 7, 8, 12, 18 and 22-24 of claim 24. Office Action (10/30/2006), page 3. Applicants amended claim 24 to replace the term “M processing units” in line 17 of claim 24 with the term “M PUs.”

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the objections to the claims.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112, SECOND PARAGRAPH:

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-13 and 24-32 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Office Action (10/30/2006), page 3. In particular, the Examiner asserts that the phrases “wherein an address pointer selecting the pattern” and “...is modified in response...” in claim 1 and similarly in claim 24 are indefinite. *Id.* Applicants amended claims 1 and 24 as suggested by the Examiner.

The Examiner further asserts that the phrases “the sequence of input data” and “the pattern data” in claim 24 lack antecedent basis. *Id.* Applicants amended claim 24 to replace the first phrase of “the sequence of input data” with the phrase “a sequence of input data” as well as to replace the phrase “the pattern data” with the phrase “the pattern” to remove any antecedent basis problems.

Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1-13 and 24-32 particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Consequently, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1-13 and 24-32 are allowable under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejections of claims 1-13 and 24-32 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. M.P.E.P. §2171.

III. CONCLUSION:

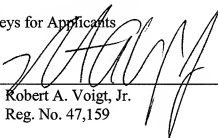
As a result of the foregoing, it is asserted by Applicants that claims 1-13 and 24-32 in the Application are in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request an allowance of such claims. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner call Applicants' attorney at the below listed number if the Examiner believes that such a discussion would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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